

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of automatically performing actions on or in association with recognized text strings, comprising:

receiving a text string from a computer-generated document;

passing the text string to a recognizer application;

recognizing the text string as belonging to a given semantic category;

passing the recognizer application a pointer to an object model of a host application from which the text string is received; and

utilizing the object model of the host application, performing one or more actions on the recognized text string in the computer-generated document.

2. The method of Claim 1, whereby receiving the text string from the computer-generated document includes receiving the text string at the host application; and

whereby passing the text string to a recognizer application includes passing the text string from the host application to the recognizer application.

3. The method of Claim 1, prior to performing one or more actions on the recognized text string, accessing the object model of the host application by the recognizer application via the pointer to the object model.

4. The method of Claim 1, whereby performing one or more actions on the recognized text string includes parsing the computer-generated document containing the text string for contextual information associated with the text string; and

utilizing the contextual information by the recognizer application to perform additional recognition on the text string.

5. The method of Claim 1, whereby performing one or more actions on the recognized text string includes performing one or more actions on the recognized text string without user action.

6. A method of automatically performing actions on or in association with recognized text or data strings, comprising:

receiving a text string from a computer-generated document;

passing the text string to a recognizer application;

recognizing the text string as belonging to a given semantic category;

passing information from the recognizer application to a host application from which the text string is received, said information identifying the text string as belonging to the given semantic category;

at the host application, firing an event associated with an action application programmed to perform a desired action on the text string; and

in response to the fired event, causing the action application to perform the desired action on the recognized text string in the computer-generated document.

7. The method of Claim 6, whereby receiving the text string from the computer-generated document includes receiving the text string from the host application; and further comprising

passing the text string from the host application to the recognizer application.

8. The method of Claim 6, whereby passing information from the recognizer application to the host application includes passing the location of the text string in the computer-generated document from which the text string is received.

9. The method of Claim 6, whereby firing an event associated with an action application programmed to perform a desired action on the text string includes firing a document level event.

10. The method of Claim 6, whereby firing an event associated with an action application programmed to perform a desired action on the text string includes firing an application level event.

11. The method of Claim 6, prior to causing the action application to perform the desired action on the recognized text string in the computer-generated document, causing the action application to trap the fired event from the host application.

12. A method of automatically performing actions on or in association with recognized text or data strings, comprising:

- receiving a text string from a host application entered into a computer-generated document;

- passing the text string to a recognizer application;

- recognizing the text string as belonging to a given semantic category;

- passing information from the recognizer application to the host application, said information identifying the text string as belonging to the given semantic category;

- at the recognizer application, setting a property value identifying a desired action to be performed on the text string;

- at the host application, calling an action application identified by the property value and programmed to performed the desired action on the text string; and

- causing the action application to perform the desired action on the text string.

13. The method of Claim 12, whereby receiving the text string from the computer-generated document includes receiving the text string at the host application, and whereby passing the text string to the recognizer application includes passing the text string from the host application to the recognizer application.

14. The method of Claim 12, whereby passing information from the recognizer application to the host application includes passing the location of the text string in the computer-generated document from which the text string is received.

15. The method of Claim 12, whereby setting a property value identifying the desired action to be performed on the text string includes:

at the recognizer application, depositing the property value into a property value data structure; and

passing the host application a pointer to the property value in the property value data structure.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

at the host application, receiving the pointer to the property value; and

at the host application, utilizing the pointer to the property value to identify the desired action to be performed on the text string in the computer-generated document.

17. The method of Claim 15, after the desired action is performed on the text string in the computer-generated document, deleting the property value from the property value data structure.